AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

These claims replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(currently amended) A dynamic load sharing system using a virtual router comprising:

a plurality of equipment units each functioning as a router, which ~~constitutes~~ constitute said virtual router having a single common address; and

~~an~~ end ~~system~~ systems connected to a network through said virtual router, wherein one ~~of said~~ equipment unit among ~~a~~ the plurality of equipment units ~~functioning as a router~~ constituting said virtual router is assigned as a master router, while each of the other equipment units ~~functioning as a router~~ is assigned as a backup router, and said assigned master router dynamically sets a packet condition for ~~defining the routing object~~ packets subject to routing to indicate packets of which end system are to be processed by the backup router, and transmit the packet condition to said backup router, so that routing processing between said network and said end system is performed by said plurality of equipment units each functioning as a router.

2.(original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 1, wherein when said backup router receives from said master router the information of packet condition for defining the routing object, said backup router transmits a response message to said master router.

3. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 1, wherein after said master router notifies said backup router of said packet condition for defining the routing object, said master router removes said packet condition being allocated to said

backup router from the packet condition for defining the routing object of said master router itself.

4. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 2, wherein after said backup router transmits said response message to said master router, said backup router is set to suspend routing processing for a predetermined period.

5.(currently amended) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 2, wherein on reception of a response message packet from said backup router, said master router removes the allocated packet condition for defining the routing object, and notifies said backup router of a sequence number of the packet the routing processing for which is completed by said master router.

6. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 5, wherein said backup router discards a packet having been routed by said master router from among buffered packets based on said sequence number information transmitted from master router, and performs routing processing from the succeeding packet to said discarded packet.

7. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 1, wherein said backup router includes a monitor means for monitoring flow rate information of the packets being routed by said backup router itself.

8. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 7, wherein when said packet flow rate monitored by said monitor means exceeds a predetermined value, said backup router requests said master router to review said packet condition for defining the routing object.

9. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 7, wherein said master router collects said flow rate information monitored by said monitor means in said backup router, to review packet condition for defining the routing object when said packet flow rate exceeds a predetermined value.

10. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 9, wherein said flow rate information collection from said backup router being performed by said master router is initiated by a request from said backup router.

11. (original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 9, wherein the reallocation of routers for routing packets is initiated by said packet condition review.

12.(currently amended) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 11,

wherein said review request from said backup router is inhibited for a predetermined period irrespective of said router reallocation for routing packets.

13.(original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 11, wherein said master router suspends said information collection for a predetermined period irrespective of said router reallocation for routing packets.

14.(previously presented) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to either claim 1, wherein said dynamic load sharing system further comprises a server performing the functions of modifying packet information for routing and obtaining configuration information of said end systems.

15.(original) The dynamic load sharing system using the virtual router according to claim 1, wherein said network includes a carrier network providing an IP virtual private network service (IP-VPN service) or an ISP (Internet service provider) network.